4      a software component architecture layer interfacing with an operating system to

5      control the operations of the computer, the software component architecture layer defin-

6      ing a plurality of computing components; and

7      a network component layer for developing network navigation components that

8      provide services directed to the computer network, <u>the network component layer includes</u>

9      <u>application programming interfaces; and</u>

10      <u>a first class included in the application programming interfaces to construct a first</u>

11      <u>network navigation object that represents different network resources available on the</u>

12      <u>computer network, wherein</u> the network component layer coupled to the software com-

13      ponent architecture layer in integrating relation to facilitate communication among the

14      computing and network navigation components.

1      2.      (Amended) The computing arrangement of claim 1 wherein the network naviga-

2      tion components are objects [and wherein the network component layer comprises appli-

3      cation programming interfaces delivered in the form of objects in a class hierarchy].

1      3̶ 4.      (Amended) The computing arrangement of Claim [3] <u>1</u> wherein the application

2      programming interfaces further comprise a second class for constructing a second net-

3      work navigation object representing a data stream for transferring information among

4      objects of the arrangement.

1      6̶ 7.      (Amended) An extensible and replaceable layered component computing ar-

2      rangement for providing services directed to information available on computer net-

3 works, the computing arrangement comprising:

4         a processor;

5         an operating system;

6         a software component architecture layer coupled to the operating system to con-

7 trol the operations of the processor, the software component architecture layer defining a

8 plurality of computing components; and

9         a network component layer for creating network navigation components config-

10 ured to search and obtain information available on the computer networks, <u>the network</u>

11 <u>component layer includes application programming interfaces; and</u>

12         <u>means for constructing a network navigation component that represents different</u>

13 <u>resources available on the computer network, wherein</u> the network component layer is

14 integrally coupled to the software component architecture layer to ensure communication

15 among the computing and network navigation components.

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1   11. (Amended) The computing arrangement of Claim [9] 8 wherein the application

2 programming interfaces comprise means for constructing a network navigation compo-

3 nent that implements a protocol.

1   12. (Amended) The computing arrangement of Claim [9] 7 wherein the application

2 programming interfaces comprise means for constructing a network navigation compo-

3 nent that provides additional functionality to existing computing components to enable

4 communication among the components.